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REMARKS

The above-identified Office Action has been reviewed, the reference carefully considered, and the Examiner's comments carefully weighed. Applicants wish to express gratitude to the Examiner for clearly setting forth the basis of the remaining 35 USC 102 issues in the "Response to Arguments" section of the Office Action. In this regard, Claim 3 has been canceled without prejudice, base Claims 1 and 15 have been amended to address the remaining 35 USC 102 issues, and Claim 4 has been amended to correct antecedency. It is contended that by the present Amendment, all bases of rejection set forth in the Office Action have been traversed and overcome. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102

Grounds for Rejection:

According to the Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 15 and 16 are rejected as being anticipated by Hashim et al.

In view of the present amendment, Applicants respectfully traverse the aforesaid ground for rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) for the reasons set forth in detail below.

The test to be applied for purposes of determining the propriety of a rejection of the Claims under 35 U.S.C. 102 is set forth in RCA Corporation v. Digital Data Systems, Inc., 221 U.S.P.Q. 385, 388 (C.A.F.C. 1984), where the Court held:

"Anticipation is established only when a single prior art reference discloses, expressly or under principles of inherency, each and every claimed element of the claimed invention."

Applicants' amended base Claim 1 requires, inter alia:

"... an attachment panel having a left opening and a right opening, said right opening being spaced a predetermined distance from said left opening;

a left main nut body component attached to said attachment panel at said left opening at a first fixed orientation with respect to said attachment panel, said left main nut body component having a first plurality of license plate attachment holes formed therein; and

a right main nut body component attached to said attachment panel at said right opening at a second fixed orientation with respect to said attachment panel, said right main nut body component having a second plurality of license plate attachment holes formed therein;

wherein each of said license plate attachment holes comprises a blind bore formed in a closed end casing."

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Applicants' amended base Claim 15 requires, inter alia:

"... an attachment panel having a left opening and a right opening, said right opening being spaced a predetermined distance from said left opening;

a left main nut body component attached to said attachment panel at a first fixed orientation with respect to said attachment panel, said left main nut body component having a first plurality of license plate attachment holes formed therein; and

a right main nut body component attached to said attachment panel at a second fixed orientation with respect to said attachment panel, said right main nut body component having a second plurality of license plate attachment holes formed therein;

wherein said left main nut body component comprises a left main nut body head and a left entry boss, at least one first guide slot being formed in said left entry boss, wherein said left entry boss is receivable into said left opening, and wherein rotation of said left main nut body component results in attachment of said left nut body to said attachment panel by a periphery of said left opening being trapped in said at least one first guide slot; and

wherein said right main nut body component comprises a right main nut body head and a right entry boss, at least one second guide slot being formed in said right entry boss, wherein said right entry boss is receivable into said right opening, and wherein rotation of said right main nut body component results in attachment of said right nut body to said attachment panel by a periphery of said right opening being trapped in said at least one second guide slot.

Applicants' Response:

Claims 1 and 2:

Hashim et al. does not disclose that each of the license plate attachment holes comprise a blind bore formed in a closed end casing. Accordingly, Hashim et al does not anticipate amended base Claim 1.

Claims 15 and 16:

Hashim et al. does not disclose a left main nut body component comprising a left main nut body head and a left entry boss, at least one first guide slot being formed in the left entry boss, wherein the left entry boss is receivable into a left opening of an attachment panel, and wherein rotation of the left main nut body component results in attachment of the left nut body to the attachment panel by a periphery of the left opening being trapped in the at least one first guide slot; and further fails to disclose a right main nut body component comprising a right main nut body head and a right entry boss, at least one second guide slot being formed in the right entry boss, wherein the right entry boss is receivable into a right opening of the attachment panel,

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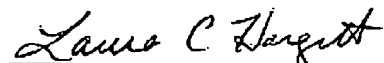
and wherein rotation of the right main nut body component results in attachment of the right nut body to the attachment panel by a periphery of the right opening being trapped in the at least one second guide slot. Accordingly, Hashim et al does not anticipate amended base Claim 15.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102 as regards amended base Claims 1 and 15, and, under the principle that dependent claims merely further define their respective base claims, that the rejection be withdrawn as regards Claims 2 and 16.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that Applicants have responded in a fully satisfactory manner to all matters at issue in this Application, and that this Application is now in condition for allowance. In this regard, Applicants have made every effort to comply with the requirements set forth in the Office Action as well as the statutory requirements. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter this Amendment, allow the claims, and pass this Application on to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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